in the Union Budget for 2005-06, the additional excise duty of Re. 1/- per kg on tea has been withdrawn.

Incentives for industrial units in SEZs

†768. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the industrial Units under Special Economic Zones in the country are provided special concession;

(b) if so, the details of facilities provided to such units; and

(c) the estimate of average annual financial aid to such units through these facilities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The major entitlements available to units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) include duty free import/domestic procurement of goods, exemption from Central Sales Tax on supplies from Domestic Tariff Area and 100% income tax exemption for first 5 years, 50% for the next 2 years and not exceeding 50% of ploughed back profits for next 3 years.

(c) These units are not granted any financial aid.

World Economic Forum

769. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he led a delegation of industrialists and others to the annual meeting of the world Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland in January, 2005;

(b) if so, what are the major issues discussed at the forum;

(c) whether he has received assurances from the international industrial community on increased foreign direct investment into the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The major issues discussed at the forum

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

related to Trade and Investment. India as an investment destination and growth opportunities in India *vis-a-vis* China were also issues on which great interest was evinced.

(c) and (d) Interaction took place with more than 30 CEOs of global corporations about their business interest in India. The policies and programmes of the government with regard to the economic reform process were explained and elaborated upon. The international industrial community was invited to invest in India within the framework of our policies. The CEOs evinced keen interest in India as an investment destination.

Promotion of Indian coffee by Coffee Board

770. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board is not actively promoting Indian coffee in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Coffee Board has not opened its coffee shops or outlets in major cities;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether government is aware that the private sector is very active in such marketing techniques; and

(e) the steps proposed by the Coffee Board to create a franchise of its Coffee Board restaurants in interest of selling and promoting Indian coffee?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. The Coffee Board is involved in increasing the consumption of coffee domestically.

(b) No, Sir. Coffee Board is running 13 India coffee houses/coffee depots in various towns and cities.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. Coffee Board is also supporting these initiatives through aggressive generic promotion efforts and public relation campaigns. Coffee Board is conducting the Kaapi Shastra Programme for providing technical training in the art of retailing coffee to the interested private sector/ entrepreneurs in different locations of the country.

(e) Presently there is no proposal by the Board to franchise the Coffee Board restaurants (Coffee Houses) to the private sector.